IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	**MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**
)	
Yoko Fujiwara)	Group Art Unit: 2624
)	
Application No.: 09/875,081)	Examiner: GREGORY M. DESIRE
)	
Filed: June 7, 2001)	Confirmation No.: 6215
)	
For: IMAGE PROCESSOR FOR)	
CHARACTER RECOGNITION)	
)	

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS OF ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents   Date: May 21, 2007
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Notice of Allowability recently issued in connection with this application is accompanied by an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. In discussing the allowability of the independent claims, it appears the Examiner has attempted to generally reference each of the independent claims with the same comments. To clarify the reasons for allowance, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner meant to state that the prior art fails to disclose a method of image processing comprising the steps of: receiving image data of an original image, the original image having character images provided on a background image, conducting character recognition on the image data including preprocessing the image data for character recognition, extracting areas from the image data which correspond to the character images, and generating character code data based on the extracted character images, changing, based on the character recognition, the image data by replacing the extracted areas with the background image with reference to the image data therein generating changed image data representing an image which is same as the original image except without the character images, and storing the changed image

Buchanan Ingersoll &. Rooney PC
Attorneys &. Government Relations Professionals

data and the character code data along with a relationship between them as claimed in claim 1.

The prior art also fails to disclose a method of image processing comprising the steps of: conducting character recognition on image data including preprocessing the image data for character recognition, and converting character images in the preprocessed image data of an original image to character code data, and complementing, based upon the character recognition, the character images based on image data around the character images therein changing image data representing an image which is same as the original image except without the character images as claimed in claim 2.

Furthermore, the prior art fails to disclose a method of image processing comprising the steps of: conducting character recognition on image data including preprocessing the image data for character recognition, and converting character images in the preprocessed image data of an original image to character code data, complementing, based upon the character recognition, the character images based on image data around the character images therein generating changed image data representing an image which is same as the original image except without the character images, and storing the character code data and the changed image data along with a relationship between them as claimed in claim 3.

Also, the prior art fails to disclose an image processor comprising a reader which reads an original image of a document to provide image data thereof, character recognition device conducting character recognition on the image data including a preprocessing device preprocessing the image data for character recognition, a converter which determines character code data of character images

in correspondence to character image in the image data, and an acquiring device which determines position data on a position in the character images converted to character code data in the image data, a corrector which, based upon the character recognition, changes the character images to the same as a color of an image around the character image with reference to the image data therein generating changed image data representing an image which is same as the original image except without the character images, and a storage device which stores the character code data and the changed image data including the complemented character images along with a relationship between them as claimed in claim 4.

The prior art also fails to disclose an image processor which converts character images in image data to character code data comprising character recognition device conducting character recognition on the image data including a preprocessing device preprocessing the image data for character recognition, an extractor which extracts character images in the preprocessed image data of an original image, the original image having character images provided on a background image, and a converter which converts the extracted character images to character code data, a deleter which, based on the character recognition, deletes the character images from the background image with reference to the image data therein generating changed image data representing an image which is same as the original image except without the character images, and a synthesizer which synthesizes the character code data with the changed image data as claimed in claim 7.

Finally, the prior art fails to disclose a method of image processing comprising the steps of: receiving image data of an original image, the original image having at

least one character image on a background image, conducting character recognition on the image data including preprocessing the image data for character recognition, generating character code data based on the at least one character image with reference to color information on the at least one character image, generating, based on the character recognition, changed image data representing an image which is same as the original image except without the at least one character image by replacing image data of the at least one character image that has been converted into the character code data with image data of the background image, and storing the changed image data and the character code data along with a relationship between them as claimed in claim 17.

Claims 5-6 and 8-16 depend on independent claims 1-4 and 7. Therefore, they are also allowable.

Should any questions arise in connection with the foregoing or should the Examiner disagree in any way with the foregoing observations, the undersigned respectfully requests that the undersigned be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: May 21, 2007

By:
Ellen Marcie Emas
Registration No. 32131

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620

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